(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In the field of overseas exploration and production operations, ONGC Videsh Limited has been working in partnership with British Petroleum, Exxon Mobil, Daewoo, China National Petroleum Company, Petronas, Kogas etc. in various countries including Vietnam, Russia, Myanmar and Sudan.

New Oil Treaties

1502. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enter into any new oil treaties with other countries in the next financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) To meet the projected shortfall in natural gas supply, Government is pursuing import of natural gas in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) as well as through transnational pipelines from gas-rich countries in West Asia (including Iran), Central Asia and South East Asia. In particular, Government are pursuing gas imports through pipelines from Iran transiting through Pakistan and from Myanmar through Bangladesh. A draft Memorandum of Understanding between Bangladesh, India and Myanmar has been prepared by the Techno-Commercial Working Committee set up in the trilateral Ministerial meeting in Yangon in January, 2005. Negotiations, of a technical and commercial in nature between the National Oil and Gas companies of the countries concerned are at an initial stage.

(c) Does not arise.

National Advisory Council to Explore Possibilities of New Oil Wells

1503. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are proposing to appoint a National Advisory Council to discuss the possibilities of exploring new oil wells in the energy fields and improve the fuel position in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?